

IN THE CLAIMS:

All pending claims are produced below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
 - receiving image data associated with an article of interest, the image data
 - identifying a plurality of images within the article of interest;
 - determining a plurality of image data signals for the plurality of images based at least in part on the image data;
 - determining a plurality of image data scores for the plurality of images based at least in part on the plurality of image data signals and the article of interest;
 - comparing the plurality of image data scores for the plurality of images to a predefined threshold;
 - responsive to an image data score for an image being greater than the predefined threshold, selecting ~~an~~ the image from within the article of interest as a representative image for the article of interest
 - ~~responsive to an image data score associated with the selected image being greater than the predefined threshold~~; and
 - responsive to the plurality of image data scores for the plurality of images within the article of interest being below the predefined threshold:
 - determining a second article topically similar to the article of interest; and
 - selecting a default image from ~~outside~~ among a plurality of images within the second article as a representative image for the article of

~~interest responsive to the plurality of image data scores for the plurality of images being below the predefined threshold.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining a plurality of image data signals comprises identifying at least one image file associated with the article of interest.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining a plurality of image data scores for the plurality of images comprises determining an image data score for each of the plurality of images.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein selecting ~~an~~ the image from within the article of interest as a representative image for the article of interest comprises selecting an image associated with a highest image data score.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising: generating a representative image that includes surrounding context of the image with the highest image data score.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising: determining a default image associated with the article of interest; and determining an image data score for the default image.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising comparing the image data score for the default image to a predefined threshold.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein selecting ~~an~~ the image as a representative image for the article of interest comprises selecting an image that meets a predetermined criterion.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein a predetermined criterion comprises at least one of the following: file extension name, file name, file size, image dimensions, image aspect ratio, image frequency over multiple articles, image frequency over multiple articles within a particular web site, location of image within an article, data adjacent to the image, whether the image is associated with submission of a form, image caption, text adjacent to image, color distribution in image, text in links to the image from other pages, text nearby links to the image from other pages, headings and other text in pages that link to the image, and number of colors in image.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein identifying at least one image file associated with the article of interest comprises determining at least one of the following: file extension name, file name, file size, image dimensions, image aspect ratio, image frequency over multiple articles, location of image within an article, data adjacent to image, image caption, text adjacent to image, color distribution in image, text in links to the image from other pages, text nearby links to the image from other pages, headings and other text in pages that link to the image, and number of colors in image.

15. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the at least one image file comprises at least one of the following: a gif file, a bmp file, a png file, a jpeg file, a jpg file, an image file, photo file, and a screenshot.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining a plurality of image data scores for the plurality of images comprises determining a score based on at least one of the following: file extension name, file name, file size, image dimensions, image aspect ratio, image frequency over multiple articles, image frequency over multiple articles within a particular web site, location of image within an article, data adjacent to image, whether the image is associated with submission of a form, image caption, text adjacent to image, color distribution in image, text in links to the image from other pages, text nearby links to the image from other pages, headings and other text in pages that link to the image, and number of colors in image.

17. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the default image is selected from at least one of the following: a screenshot of a client application, a no image available icon, a predefined section of an article, an icon associated with an article, an icon representing an application program associated with the article, an icon representing a person associated with the article, an icon representing a person associated with a messaging application and an icon representing a person associated with an e-mail.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
outputting the representative image in a search result associated with the
article of interest.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

outputting the representative image associated with the article of interest in a set of selected articles.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the representative image is selected based at least in part on an article associated with an event.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the search result includes an article associated with a client device and an article associated with a network.

22. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the search result is in response to at least one of the following: an explicit query from a user, and an implicit query generated by a search engine.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer program product having a computer-readable storage medium having executable program code, comprising:

program code for receiving image data associated with an article of interest,
the image data identifying a plurality of images within the article
of interest;

program code for determining a plurality of image data signals for the plurality of images based at least in part on the image data;
program code for determining a plurality of image data scores for the plurality of images based at least in part on the plurality of image data signals and the article of interest;

program code for comparing the plurality of image data scores for the plurality of images to a predefined threshold;

program code for selecting an image from within the article of interest as a representative image for the article responsive to an image data score ~~associated with the selected image~~ for the image being greater than the predefined threshold; and

program code for responsive to the plurality of image data scores for the plurality of images within the article of interest being below the predefined threshold:

determining a second article topically similar to the article of interest; and

selecting a default image from ~~outside~~ among a plurality of images within the second article as a representative image for the article of interest responsive to the plurality of image data scores for the plurality of images being below the predefined threshold.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the program code for determining a plurality of image data signals comprises program code for identifying at least one image file associated with the article of interest.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 23, wherein program code for determining a plurality of image data scores for the plurality of images comprises program code for determining an image data score for each of the plurality of images.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 23, wherein program code for selecting an image from within the article of interest as a representative

image for the article of interest comprises program code for selecting an image associated with a highest image data score.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 27, further comprising:

program code for generating a representative image that includes surrounding context of the image with the highest image data score.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 23, further comprising:

program code for determining a default image associated with the article of interest; and
program code for determining an image data score for the default image.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 30, further comprising program code for comparing the image data score for the default image to a predefined threshold.

33. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the program code for selecting an image from within the article of interest as a representative image for the article comprises program code for selecting an image that meets a predetermined criterion.

34. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 33, wherein a predetermined criterion comprises at least one of the following: file extension name, file name, file size, image dimensions, image aspect ratio, image frequency over multiple articles, image frequency over multiple articles within a particular web site, location of image within an article, data adjacent to image, whether the image is associated with submission of a form, image caption, text adjacent to image, color distribution in image, text in links to the image from other pages, text nearby links to the image from other pages, headings and other text in pages that link to the image, and number of colors in image.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the program code for identifying at least one image file associated with the article of interest comprises program code for determining at least one of the following: file extension name, file name, file size, image dimensions, image aspect ratio, image frequency over multiple articles, location of image within an article, data adjacent to image, image caption, text adjacent to image, color distribution in image, text in links to the image from other pages, text nearby links to the image from other pages, headings and other text in pages that link to the image, and number of colors in image.

37. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the at least one image file comprises at least one of the following: a gif file, a bmp file, a png file, a jpeg file, a jpg file, an image file, a photo file, and a screenshot.

38. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the program code for determining a plurality of image data scores for the plurality of images

comprises program code for determining a score based on at least one of the following: file extension name, file name, file size, image dimensions, image aspect ratio, image frequency over multiple articles, location of image within an article, data adjacent to image, image caption, text adjacent to image, color distribution in image, text in links to the image from other pages, text nearby links to the image from other pages, headings and other text in pages that link to the image, and number of colors in image.

39. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 30, wherein the default image is selected from at least one of the following: a screenshot of the image, a no image available screen, an icon associated with an article, an icon representing an application program associated with the article, an icon representing a person associated with the article, an icon representing a person associated with a messaging application, and an icon representing a person associated with an e-mail.

40. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 23, further comprising:

program code for outputting the representative image in a search result associated with the article of interest.

41. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 23, further comprising:

program code for outputting the representative image associated with the article of interest in a set of selected articles.

42. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the representative image is selected based at least in part on an article associated with an event.

43. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 40, wherein the search result includes an article associated with a client device and an article associated with a network.

44. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 40, wherein the search result is in response to at least one of the following: an explicit query from a user, and an implicit query generated by a search engine.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the image data score for an image is determined based at least in part on a file name described by an image data signal associated with the image.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the image data score for an image is determined based at least in part on a file size described by an image data signal associated with the image.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the image data score for an image is determined based at least in part on a frequency that the image appears over multiple articles.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the image data score for an image is determined based at least in part on a frequency that the image appears over multiple articles within a particular web site.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the image data score for an image is determined based at least in part on an aspect ratio of the image.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the image data score for an image is determined based at least in part on a color distribution in the image.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the image data score for an image is determined based at least in part on a number of colors in the image.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the image data score for an image is determined based at least in part on an image caption for the image.

55. (Cancelled)